Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania Cities, Boroughs and Townships

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The U.S. Census Bureau today released 2007 population estimates for sub-county geographies, including Pennsylvania cities, boroughs and townships.

Pennsylvania Municipalities

An analysis of Pennsylvania's municipalities shows that Slippery Rock Township (6,560), in Butler County, is the state's fastest growing municipality. The population of Slippery Rock increased 20.2 percent between 2006 and 2007. (Adamstown Borough in Berks County increased by 50.0 percent between 2006 and 2007, adding a single person, increasing in population from 2 to 3.) Three other Pennsylvania municipalities grew by double-digit percentages from 2006 to 2007: Valencia Borough in Butler County, Sewickley Hills Borough in Allegheny County, and Upper Uwchlan Township in Chester County. Since 2000, seventy-seven Pennsylvania municipalities experienced growth of 25 percent or higher during this period, while thirteen municipalities declined by more than ten percent.

Lower Macungie Township, in Lehigh County, gained the most residents between 2006 and 2007, increasing by 1,142 persons to a total population of 29,046. Slippery Rock Township (+1,103) and Upper Uwchlan Township (+968) followed Lower Macungie in population increase. Lower Macungie has also experienced the most numeric growth since 2000. (Table 1)

Population Growth and Decline in Large Cities

Philadelphia is the sixth-largest city in the nation, with a population of 1.45 million. Philadelphia continues to lose population, with 3,578 fewer people in the city in 2007 than in 2006 (a 0.2 percent loss). Pittsburgh (311,218) also continues to lose population, having 2,450 fewer people in 2007 than in 2006, representing a 0.8 percent decrease.

An analysis of the nation's large cities (those with a population greater than 100,000 persons) shows no northeastern cities ranked in the top 25 for percent growth between 2006 and 2007. Pennsylvania cities with a population of 100,000 or more were ranked accordingly: Allentown - 159th (+0.3 percent), Erie City - 203rd (-0.2 percent), Philadelphia - 210th (-0.2 percent), Pittsburgh City - 244th (-0.8 percent). There were a total of 262 cities above 100,000 in the nation.

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New Orleans experienced the largest numeric increase in population of cities with 100,000 or more residents. Its population increased 28,926 persons from 2006 to 2007 (to 239,124). Again, no northeastern cities ranked in the top 25 for numeric growth.

Only two of Pennsylvania's 15 largest cities increased in population between 2006 and 2007. Allentown City grew by 315 persons, followed by Reading City (+49). The state's 15 largest cities combined for a net loss of 7,012 persons between 2006 and 2007. (Table 3)

Table 1: Pennsylvania Municipalities Experiencing the Largest Population Growth (Numeric Increase), 2006-2007				
Municipality	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2006 Estimate	July 1, 2007 Estimate	Numeric Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007	Percent Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007
Lower Macungie township	19,220	27,904	29,046	1,142	4.1
Slippery Rock township	5,254	5,457	6,560	1,103	20.2
Upper Uwchlan township	6,850	9,488	10,456	968	10.2
Bethel township	6,421	9,942	10,817	875	8.8
Norristown borough	31,282	30,264	31,108	844	2.8
Windsor township	12,807	15,535	16,178	643	4.1
Jackson township	6,095	6,494	7,130	636	9.8
Palmer township	16,806	19,167	19,800	633	3.3
Lower Moreland township	11,281	11,791	12,419	628	5.3
Upper Macungie township	13,895	16,764	17,390	626	3.7
Dover township	18,074	20,154	20,766	612	3.0

Pennsylvania Municipalities with a Population of 10,000 or More
Upper Uwchlan Township (+10.2 percent) was the fastest growing Pennsylvania municipality with a population of 10,000 or more from 2006 to 2007. Bethel Township, Delaware County, (+8.8 percent) and Lower Moreland Township, Montgomery County, (+5.3 percent) followed Upper Uwchlan.

Lower Macungie Township increased the most in population (+1,142) among the state's larger municipalities from 2006 to 2007, followed by Upper Uwchlan (+968) and Bethel (+875) Townships. (Table 2)

The July 1, 2007 sub-county estimates for Pennsylvania include minor civil divisions (MCDs) that include the state's cities, townships and boroughs. Please note that due to changes based on the count resolution program, updates from the Boundary and Annexation Survey and geographic programs revisions, an April 1, 2000 estimates base was used in the estimating process.

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Table 2: Pennsylvania Municipalities, Population Greater than 10,000, Experiencing the Fastest Population Growth (Percent Increase), 2006-2007							
Municipality	**April 1, 2000 Estimates Base**	**July 1, 2006 Estimate**	**July 1, 2007 Estimate**	**Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2007**	**Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2007**	**Numeric Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**	**Percent Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**
Upper Uwchlan township	6,850	9,488	10,456	3,606	52.6	968	10.2
Bethel township	6,421	9,942	10,817	4,396	68.5	875	8.8
Lower Moreland township	11,281	11,791	12,419	1,138	10.1	628	5.3
Lehman township	7,535	9,754	10,190	2,655	35.2	436	4.5
Pine township	7,683	9,585	10,004	2,321	30.2	419	4.4
Windsor township	12,807	15,535	16,178	3,371	26.3	643	4.1
Lower Macungie township	19,220	27,904	29,046	9,826	51.1	1,142	4.1
Forks township	8,424	13,551	14,076	5,652	67.1	525	3.9
Upper Macungie township	13,895	16,764	17,390	3,495	25.2	626	3.7
West Bradford township	10,775	12,072	12,505	1,730	16.1	433	3.6
Greene township	12,291	13,579	14,038	1,747	14.2	459	3.4

Table 3: Population, Pennsylvania's 15 Largest Municipalities, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007							
Municipality	**April 1, 2000 Estimates Base**	**July 1, 2006 Estimate**	**July 1, 2007 Estimate**	**Numeric Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2007**	**Percent Change 2000 Estimate Base to July 1, 2007**	**Numeric Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**	**Percent Change July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007**
Philadelphia City	1,517,550	1,453,212	1,449,634	-67,916	-4.5	-3,578	-0.2
Pittsburgh city	334,563	313,668	311,218	-23,345	-7.0	-2,450	-0.8
Allentown city	106,635	106,802	107,117	482	0.5	315	0.3
Erie city	103,688	103,809	103,650	-38	0.0	-159	-0.2
Reading city	81,374	80,720	80,769	-605	-0.7	49	0.1
Upper Darby township	81,821	78,925	78,733	-3,088	-3.8	-192	-0.2
Scranton city	76,081	72,651	72,485	-3,596	-4.7	-166	-0.2
Bensalem township	58,434	58,382	58,372	-62	-0.1	-10	0.0
Lower Merion township	58,740	57,738	57,555	-1,185	-2.0	-183	-0.3
Lancaster city	56,356	54,651	54,672	-1,684	-3.0	21	0.0
Abington township	55,991	54,486	54,231	-1,760	-3.1	-255	-0.5
Bristol township	55,568	53,938	53,901	-1,667	-3.0	-37	-0.1
Bethlehem city	52,300	53,220	53,204	904	1.7	-16	0.0
Millcreek township	52,158	51,954	51,767	-391	-0.7	-187	-0.4
Haverford township	49,608	48,325	48,161	-1,447	-2.9	-164	-0.3

To view our July Map of the Month: Estimated Population Percent Change April 1, 2000 Estimates Base to July 1, 2007, Pennsylvania Municipalities, please visit:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/whats_new/Map_of_the_month.html

Additional tables can be found at:

http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_Stats/estimates_and_projections/estimates.html

The Pennsylvania State Data Center will be publishing its annual edition of Pennsylvania's municipal population estimates in the near future. Look for it on our Web site at: PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu

For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Division